



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 18, 2005

MEDIA CONTACT: Arian Collins
619-236-5848

Library to Launch “Youth Voices” Program to Preserve Stories of Barrio Logan and Logan Heights

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library, in conjunction with the Media Arts Center of San Diego’s Teen Producers Project, is set to launch a new program to document and preserve local stories in the Barrio Logan and Logan Heights neighborhoods of San Diego. Entitled “Youth Voices,” the one-year digital storytelling project will help sustain, support, celebrate and maintain community identity and pride in an area that is widely regarded as a spiritual center for Latino civic engagement.

“The Library is excited and proud to offer a program that will benefit San Diego by exploring and documenting its rich cultural identity,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “‘Youth Voices’ will bring generations together for a positive and educational experience.”

Young people who live in Barrio Logan will work with local media artists and librarians at the Central Library to research and produce a series of 8 to 10 minute videos that focus on issues that the local social service agency MAAC Project has recognized as necessary for communities’ self-sufficiency including: public health, education, history, leadership, employment and housing. The videos will give voice to featured participants while providing instructive models for leadership, community building, and civic engagement. Youth documentation of residents’ life histories strengthens communities by re-building intergenerational ties, training future leaders, preserving life stories, and offering a model to help other communities’ maintain their cultural survival.

Through community media, young people develop strong roots. Youth also gain in self esteem as project leaders, connecting their communities’ past to their own future, an outcome we learned

-- more --

**Library to Launch Program to Preserve Stories of Barrio Logan and Logan Heights
Monday, August 17, 2005**

from our focus group discussions with youth who participated in similar projects. The project includes:

- Community-based digital storytelling workshops
- Digital storytelling station housed in library
- Library-based digital storytelling workshops and lab time
- Community-based, half-day workshops
- Staff development workshops
- Community screenings of the videos.

Co-sponsoring the project are the MAAC Project, High Tech High School, Barrio Logan College Institute, Memorial Academy Charter School and National Latino Research Center. Funding for the project comes from a California State Library grant through the Library Services and Technology Act.

For more information about “Youth Voices,” contact the Central Library at 619-236-5800, or visit the Library on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>. The Web site for Media Arts Center of San Diego is <http://mediaartscenter.org/>.

#

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future